

**Secret**

25X1

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



**imagery analysis report**

**Soviet Commandant Units  
In Support of Field  
Headquarters/Command Posts (S)**

264

**Secret**

*WNINTEL*

Z-14605/82  
IAR-0082/82  
OCTOBER 1982  
Copy 73

**Page Denied**

SECRET



25X1

## SOVIET COMMANDANT UNITS IN SUPPORT OF FIELD HEADQUARTERS/COMMAND POSTS (S)

### INTRODUCTION

1. (S/WN) This report, covering the period through [redacted] provides a preliminary analysis of Soviet field-headquarters support units, referred to generically as commandant units. Also, the report analyzes special-purpose (SP) vans and van sets which are key signatures for two types of commandant units—independent security and service units and independent transportation units. Fifty-five of them, each specially equipped to provide mobile accommodations for Soviet field command post (CP) personnel, have been identified throughout the Soviet and Warsaw Pact countries. Through August 1982, Soviet commandant units have been observed in Afghanistan, Czechoslovakia, [redacted] Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, and all 16 military districts (MD) in the Soviet Union (Figure 1). The survivability of the wartime Soviet command, control, and communications (C3) system depends, to some extent, on the services of commandant units. Observation of the deployment of these units provides critical indications and warning (I&W) data on increased readiness levels and impending high-level CP deployment.

25X1

2. (S/WN) Independent security and service units and independent transportation units, both supporting field mobile CPs of armies and Fronts, were probably in existence during World War II. In 1961, a Soviet writer, discussing the units, recommended that the commandant's service (*Kommandantskaya sluzhba*\*) be broadened.<sup>1</sup> The author proposed that the security and service regiment, attached to the Front staff, and the battalion, attached to the army staff, be called commandant units (*Kommandantskaya chast*).<sup>1</sup> It was not stated in the article if his suggestion was adopted, but some form of his general proposal is currently being used.

25X1

3. (S/WN) This report includes human intelligence (humint) reports and imagery analysis which is relative to the mission, subordination, equipment, organization, and field deployment of commandant units. In addition, it includes one table, three charts, five drawings, and 20 annotated photographs.

### BASIC DESCRIPTION

#### Commandant Units

4. (S/WN) [redacted] commandant units—consisting of various SP units—are under the direct supervision of the commandant's group at every level of Soviet forces headquarters.<sup>1</sup> Through late August 1982, commandant companies, battalions, and regiments

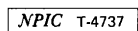
25X1

\*Commandant services are an aggregate of activities organized by staffs at all command levels for controlling areas where troops are deployed. The services also include regulating road and rail traffic and camouflage activities.

(Continued p. 6)



25X1



- 2 -

**SECRET****Table 1.****Commandant Units Identified on Imagery***This table in its entirety is classified SECRET/WNINTEL*

Subordination*	Echelon	Facility	Type**	BE No	
Baltic MD (BAMD)					
BAMD	Regt	Riga Army Bks E AL-2	A		
11th GDS Army	Bn	Kaliningrad Bks Sharlottenburg AL-3***	A		
BAMD	Bn	Riga Army Bks NE AL-1	B		
Belorussian MD (BEMD)					
BEMD	Regt	Minsk Army Bks Uruchye NE	A		
5th GDS Tk Army	Bn	Bobruysk Hq GDS TK Army/Army Bks AL-11	A		
7th Tk Army	Bn	Borisov Hq Tk Army/Army Bks AL-4	A		
28th Army	Bn	Grodno Army Bks E AL-1	A		
BEMD Air Forces Hq	Bn	Minsk Army Bks Step'yanka SE AL-11	B		
Carpathian MD (CPMD)					
CPMD	Regt	L'vov Army Bks AL-7 and L'VOV AAA Bks Vysokiy Zamok AL-5	A		
8th Tk Army	Bn	Zhitomir Army Bks Central	A		
13th Army	Bn	Rovno Army Bks/Hq 13 Army AL-1	A		
38th Army	Bn	Ivano Frankovsk Army Bks Central	A		
CPMD	Bn	L'vov Army Bks NW AL-11	B		
Central Asian MD (CAMD)					
CAMD	Bn	Alma Ata Army Bks AL-10	B		
1st Army Corps	Bn	Semipalatinsk Army Bks AL-2	A		
17th Army Corps		Unknown			
Far East MD (FEMD)					
FEMD	Regt	Khabarovsk Hq Far East MD AL-21***	A		
15th Army	Bn	Khabarovsk Army Hq/Bks AL-27***	A		
35th Army	Bn	Belogorsk Army Bks Tom River AL-4	A		
5th Army	Bn	Ussuriysk Army Bks W AL-3/SAM***	A		
		Sup Fac A	A		
Unid Army Corps	Bn	Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk Army Bks N	A		
Unid Army Corps		Unknown			

\* Army designators derived from referenced document 12.

\*\* A (independent security and service units) and B (independent MD transportation units) designate types of commandant units.

\*\*\* APCs housed with independent security and service unit.

**SECRET****Table 1. (cont'd)**

Subordination*	Echelon	Facility	Type**	BE No
Kiev MD (KYMD)				
KYMD	Bn	Kiyev Army Bks South AL-24	B	
1st GDS Army	Bn	Chernigov Army Bks E AL-3	A	
6th Tk Army		Unknown		
Leningrad MD (LEMD)				
LEMD	Regt	Leningrad Army Bks Radishcheva AL-2	A	
6th Army	Bn	Petrozavodsk Hq 6 Army/AR Bks AL-4	A	
30th GDS Army Corps	Bn	Vyborg Army Bks AL-3	A	
Unid Army Corps		Unknown		
Moscow MD (MOMD)				
MOMD	Bn	Alabino Army Bks A Tng Center AL-1	A	
Command Staff	Regt	Barybino Army Bks AL-1***	A	
North Caucasus MD (NCMD)				
NCMD	Bn	Novocherkassk Army Bks SW AL-1	B	
Unid Army Corps		Unknown		
Odessa MD (ODMD)				
ODMD	Regt	Odessa Army Bks AL-2	A	
14th Army	Bn	Kishinev Army Bks West AL-2	A	
32nd Army				
Siberian MD (SIMD)				
SIMD	Bn	Novosibirsk Army Bks N AL-7	B	
SIMD	Bn	Novosibirsk Army Bks AL-1/Hq MRD	A	
Trans-Baikal MD (TBMD)				
TBMD	Regt	Chita Tk Div Army Bks AL-15	A	
TBMD	Bn	Glubokaya Army Bks Atamanovka AL-1	B	
Command Staff	Regt	Ulan Ude 9th RVGK Signal BDE AL-3	A	
Unid Army	Bn	Borzya Army Hq AL-1	A	
Unid Army	Bn	Ulan Ude Army Bks SE AL-2***	A	

\* Army designators derived from referenced document 12.

\*\* A (independent security and service units) and B (independent MD transportation units) designate types of commandant units.

\*\*\* APCs housed with independent security and service unit.

**SECRET****Table 1. (cont'd)**

Subordination*	Echelon	Facility	Type**	BE No	
Transcaucasus MD (TCMD)					
TCMD Air Forces Hq	Bn	Tbilisi Air Depot W/GSE	B		
4th Army	Bn†	Baku 4th Army Hq AL-33, Baku Army Bks Shaumyan AL-2, and Baku Army Bks SW AL-4	A		
7th GDS Army	Bn	Yerevan Army Bks Kanaker AL-6	A		
Unid Army Corps		Unknown			
Turkestan MD (TKMD)					
TKMD	Bn	Tashkent Turkestan MD Hq AL-20 and Poltoratskiy U/I CC RCVR Fac/Bnk	A		
Ural MD (URMD)					
VOMD	Bn	Sverdlovsk Supply Depot DX 1	B		
Volga MD (VOMD)					
VOMD	Bn	Kuybyshev Army Bks AL-1 and Dubovyy Umet Mil Instl††	A		
Soviet Forces in Mongolia					
39th Tk Army	Bn	Ulaan Baatar Army Bks AL-1	A		
Soviet Forces in Afghanistan					
40th Army	Bn	Kabul Deployment Area SW***	A		
Central Groups of Forces (CGF), Czechoslovakia					
CGF	Bn	Milovice Army Bks Hq NW 201	A		
Unid Army Corps		Unknown			

\* Army designators derived from referenced document 12.

\*\* A (independent security and service units) and B (independent MD transportation units) designate types of commandant units.

\*\*\* APCs housed with independent security and service unit.

† Elements of an independent security and service battalion housed at three separate installations in Baku.

†† Approximately 15 nm south of Kuybyshev VOMD Hq/AL-1.

**SECRET****Table 1. (cont'd)**

<b>Subordination*</b>	<b>Echelon</b>	<b>Facility</b>	<b>Type**</b>	<b>BE No</b>

25X1

**Southern Group of Forces (SGF), Hungary**

SGF	Bn	Budapest AAA Bks Stromfeld Aurel 207	B	<input type="text"/>
-----	----	--------------------------------------	---	----------------------

25X1

**Northern Groups of Forces (NGF), Poland**

NGF	Bn	Legnica Army Bks 201	A	<input type="text"/>
-----	----	----------------------	---	----------------------

25X1

\* Army designators derived from referenced document 12.

\*\* A (independent security and service units) and B (independent MD transportation units) designate types of commandant units.

supporting field headquarters from division through Front/groups of forces (GOF)-level have been identified on imagery and in humint reports. Photographic evidence suggests that these units may be available to support national-level/command staff (CS) authorities as well; however, only nondivisional commandant units are discussed in this report. A list of each commandant unit identified by late August 1982 has been provided in this report (Table 1).

**Mission**

5. (S/WN) Commandant units provide transportation, logistics, physical security, and administrative/clerical services for the headquarters they support.<sup>2,3</sup> Transportation personnel set up special vans for workspaces for the staff directorates, departments, and smaller entities comprising field CPs of high commands, Fronts, armies, and lower levels. Commandant transportation personnel operate and maintain expandable vans and van truck and trailer sets and position them in specific sectors within the CP area. Transportation vehicles such as these are the most readily identifiable part of commandant units. The security elements (modified motorized rifle and tank combat units) of the independent security and service units are not readily identifiable because they may be in emergency reserve or they may not have armored vehicles. Because the transportation and security vehicles are most prevalent on imagery, this report focuses on their characteristics instead of on those of the logistics and administrative clerical services.

**SECRET****Independent Security and Service Units**

6. (S/WN) Imagery analysis revealed that two echelons of independent security and service units exist above division level. The smaller of the two echelons—company/battalion strength—is generally associated with areas containing army corps and army headquarters. The Soviet designation for the smaller unit is *Otdelnaya Rota/Batalon Okhrani i Obsluzhivaniya* or *OROO/OBOO*, which means independent security and service company/battalion.<sup>2</sup> A typical *OROO/OBOO* has approximately 150 vehicles. Thirty-three *OROO/OBOOs* have been identified. The larger echelon—battalion/regimental strength—is associated with MD or GOF headquarters. This unit is probably regarded as regimental sized because of the reported existence of a Front-subordinate independent security and service regiment designated by the Soviets as *Otdelnaya Polk Okhrani i Obsluzhivaniya* or *OPOO*.<sup>4</sup> The unit contains approximately twice the number of vehicles as the smaller unit. Eleven larger units have been identified.

**Independent Transportation Units**

7. (S/WN) Eleven independent transportation battalions—essentially motor transportation units equipped to provide support to field CPs—have been identified on imagery. These battalions contain the same type of special vans as transportation subunits of independent security and service units as well as transport (cargo trucks) and fuel supply (POL) subunits. They have been associated with headquarters of MDs (rear service and main field CP support) and with air forces of MDs (combined air force and air defense field CPs). The units do not appear to include armored personnel carrier (APC)-equipped security subunits.

**Signature Vehicles of Commandant Units**

8. (S/WN) Field operations van (FOV) sets (the NPIC interim designation for an unidentified truck and trailer set that has been seen with commandant units since 1972), *Babochka* (butterfly) expandable van trucks, and administrative transportation vehicles are the three predominant types of multipurpose special vehicles observed in commandant units. Besides the FOV sets and *Babochka* vans, vehicles observed organic to commandant units include UAZ-469/69 light utility trucks (jeeps), light-toned civilian buses, limousines/sedans, APCs, tanks, and general transport and utility service vehicles (Figures 2 through 5).

9. (S/WN) Only seven commandant units have been identified with APCs (Table 1). These vehicles are used by the security subunits assigned/attached/organic to independent security and service units. Presumably, they could serve as lead vehicles for reconnoitering a route and for securing a site for a field CP; in addition, they could provide a means for ensuring continuity in command and control while commanders are travelling.

**FOV Sets**

10. (S/WN) The exact Soviet name for the FOV set has yet to be confirmed. Fragmentary information extracted from various intelligence sources and open-source publications has alluded to designations which have been found to be inconsistent and contradictory. Frequently, NPIC has described this set as a KM-66 or K-66 workshop van set because of the Soviet standard

(Continued p. 10)

**SECRET**



**FIGURE 2. MOTOR MARCH OF GSFG INDEPENDENT SECURITY AND SERVICE UNIT**

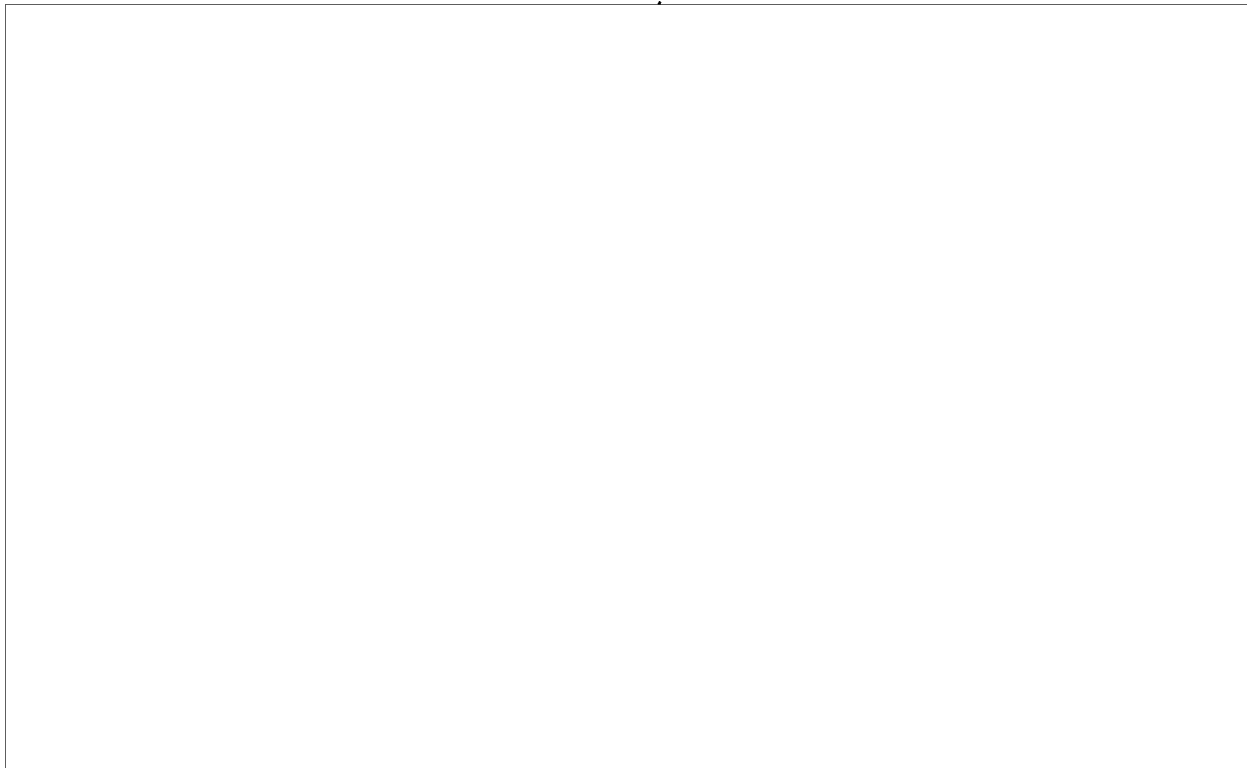


**FIGURE 3. FOV SET IN MOTOR MARCH CONVOY**

**Page Denied**

**SECRET**

25X1



workshop box-body shelter, the most notable feature of the vehicle. Apparently, the Soviets—to maximize the use of the shelter throughout the Soviet military forces—use this basic design for a variety of functions.

11. (S/WN) Key identification features of the basic shelter are three windows on each chamfered edge, three windows on each side wall, and an equipment/luggage storage platform occupying approximately two-thirds of the surface area of the roof. Usually, camouflage canvas or net for the FOV set is transported atop this equipment platform (Figure 6). This basic shelter is installed on the beds of GAZ-66, ZIL-157, and ZIL-131 truck chassis. ZIL-157 and ZIL-131 trucks usually tow a dual-axle, [ ] two-ton van trailer (designated 2-PN-2M).

25X1

12. (S/WN) FOV sets are probably well suited to function as mobile staff facilities or mobile offices. The van trailers—with two windows on each side wall and fitted with a chemical, biological, and radiological (CBR) protection system (Figure 7)—could be used to carry four sleeping bunks, accessory equipment, wash facilities, and a heater as standard furnishings; they could also be used as additional office workspace. One source stated that lower-ranking officers had to share this trailer, when being used for living quarters, with others. Trailers assigned to general officers are usually pulled by an URAL-375.<sup>5</sup>

13. (S/WN) Since 1979, the Soviets have been deploying a second-generation type of FOV shelter mounted on a URAL-375 truck chassis. This vehicle is slightly longer [ ] than the overall ZIL-157/131 FOV set's length, which is [ ]. The second-generation type has four windows on each chamfered edge and side wall (Figure 8). Also, this version usually tows a [ ] dual-axle, chamfered-roof van trailer (designated 2-PN-4M) with a four-ton capacity. The function of this FOV set is most likely identical to that of the original version. In examining these units, a distinction based on the Soviet truck-chassis type (Figure 9) has been made.

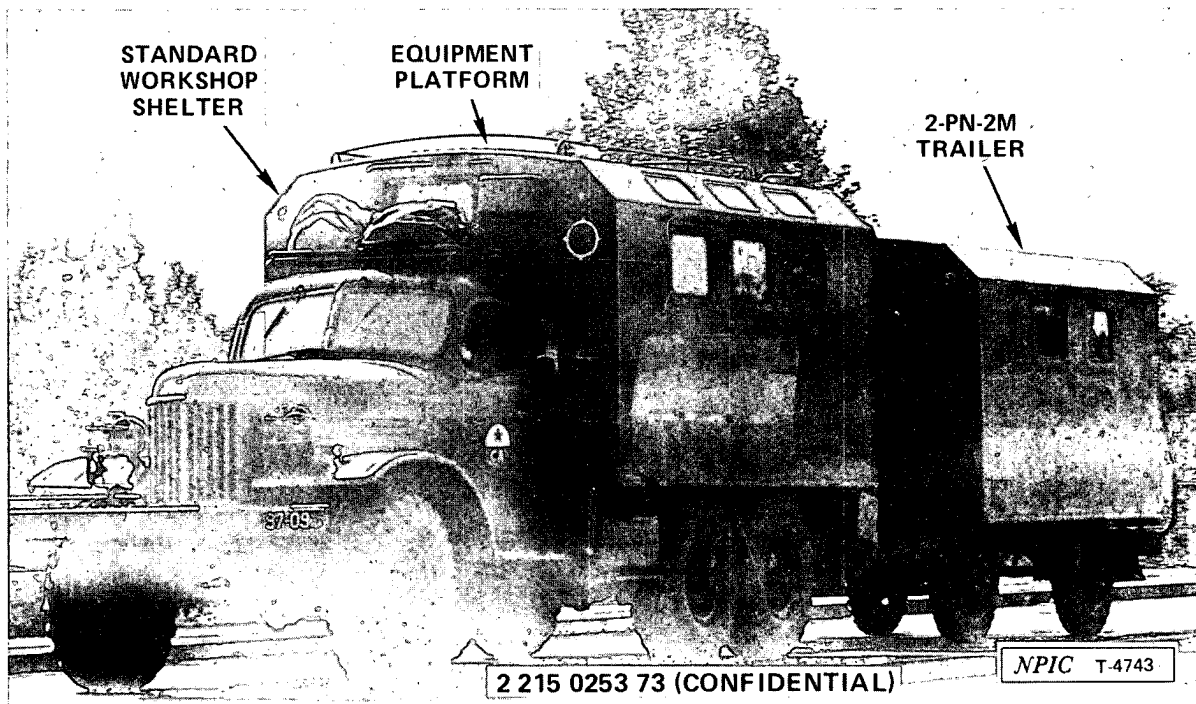
25X1  
25X1  
25X1  
25X1

- 10 -

Z-14605/82

**SECRET**

IAR-0082/82

**SECRET****FIGURE 6. SOVIET ZIL-157 FOV SET IN TRANSIT**

14. (S/WN) Tactically deployed FOV sets seem to share two distinct characteristics. Primarily, small auxiliary tents—probably used by the crew of the FOV set for sleeping or working accommodations—are erected next to these sets. Secondly, canvas is stretched across the gap separating the truck and trailer (Figure 10).

15. (S/WN) For concealment/deception purposes during tactical deployment, light-toned paints, which can be washed off with plain water, are applied as needed in disruptive camouflage patterns to these sets.<sup>6</sup> Also, camouflage nets and natural foliage are used for these purposes.

### **Babochka Expandable Vans**

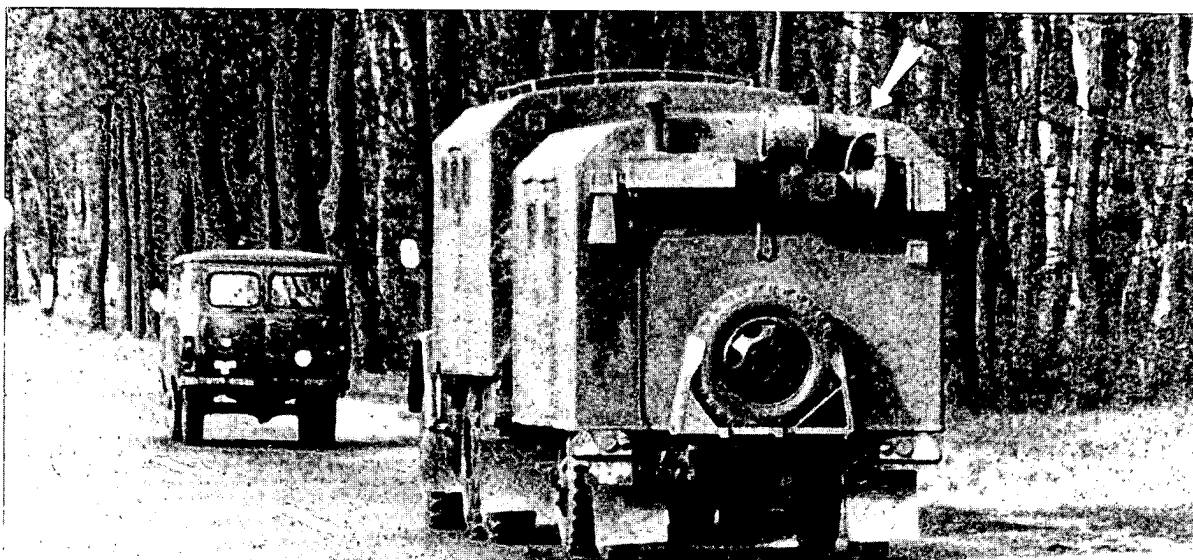
16. (S/WN) The informal name *Babochka*, [redacted] refers to the manner in which the side walls of the van are unfolded to form an enclosed awning.<sup>7</sup> Unfolding the side walls doubles the size of the interior. It usually takes approximately 30 minutes for two men to enlarge or retract the box-body.<sup>8</sup> After the side walls are lowered to form the floor, supported on each side by three adjustable legs, the roof—probably an additional interior side wall—is raised, and the sides are erected (Figure 11). The material used for the sides of the van probably varies, but canvas-type material appears to serve as walls for a few *Babochka* versions.

17. (S/WN) As with FOV sets, the Soviet military probably use *Babochka* van trucks for several purposes. The trucks were designed to be used as operational shelters for offices, CPs, communications centers, telephone switchboards, communications equipment repair stations,

(Continued p. 15)

25X1  
25X1

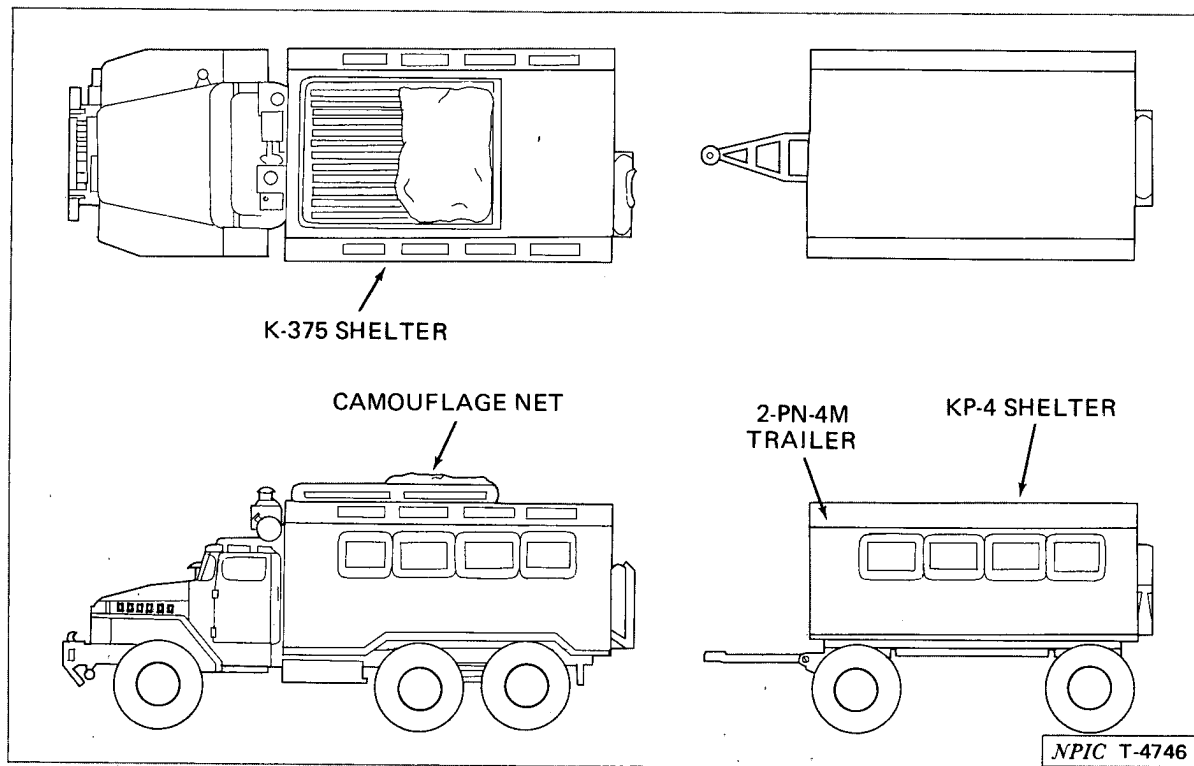
**SECRET**



DIA 2215 2227 80 (CONFIDENTIAL)

NPIC T-4745

**FIGURE 7. SOVIET CBR PROTECTION SYSTEM ON A 2-PN-2M TRAILER**

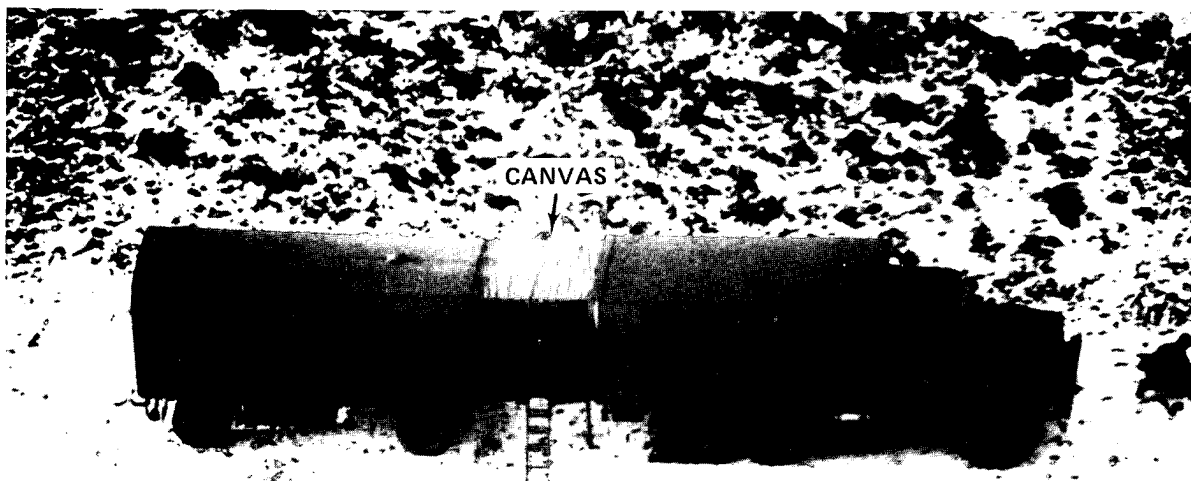


NPIC T-4746

**FIGURE 8. SOVIET URAL-375 FOV SET**

**Page Denied**

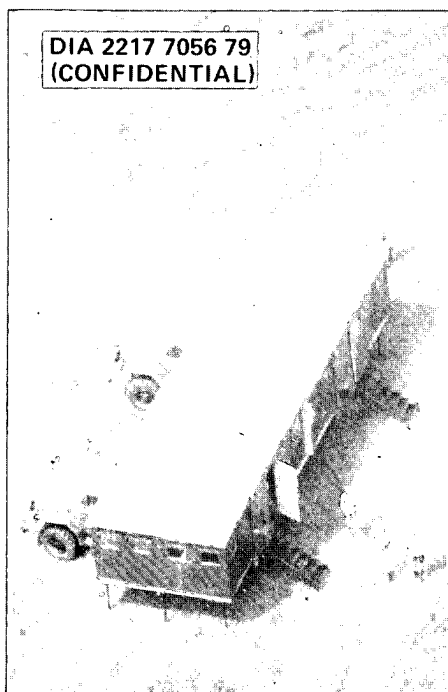
**SECRET**



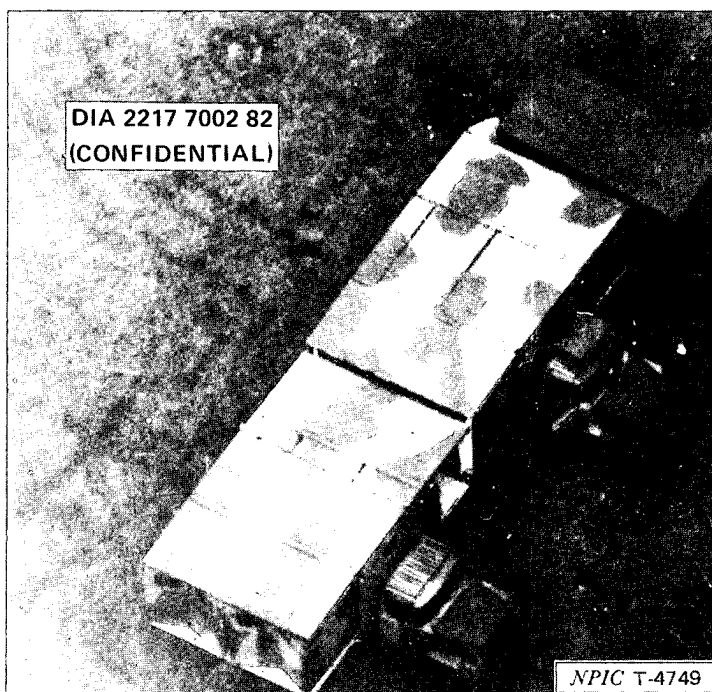
2 217 7036 77 (CONFIDENTIAL)

NPIC T-4748

**FIGURE 10. SOVIET TRUCK-TRAILER COMBINATION WITH CANVAS**



DIA 2217 7056 79  
(CONFIDENTIAL)



DIA 2217 7002 82  
(CONFIDENTIAL)

NPIC T-4749

**FIGURE 11. BABOCHKA VAN TRUCKS WITH SIDE WALLS UNFOLDED**

**SECRET**

teleprinters, mobile mess/dining facilities, or living quarters. Based on information about the missions of commandant units and about the manner in which vans are deployed, it is likely that the function of the expandable van is command associated. *Babochka* vans involved in mobile CP-support operations have been used almost exclusively as CPs.

18. (S/WN) The interior of a *Babochka* van used for a CP includes collapsible desks, folding cots, a map/conference table, field telephones—some equipped with ZAS\*\* (a secure communications encoding device), and an oil heater.<sup>7,9</sup> The box-body, [ ] is well equipped to provide office accommodations for commanders of different branches and services.

25X1

### **Administrative Transportation Vehicles**

19. (S/WN) In an alert, HQ staff officers and civilian personnel are transported to the alert area by buses, sedans, and jeeps. Although such vehicles are a necessity for a smooth transition from headquarters to the field, substantial shortages in the number of buses and sedans, in particular, have been observed at several security and service garrisons. Some of these vehicles are used on a daily basis and are parked at urban administrative headquarters compounds.

20. (S/WN) The number of available vehicles may be increased by using vehicles stored at bus or sedan motor pools. Sedan motor pools may be part of Soviet contingency preparations to ensure adequate transportation/evacuation of key personnel out of urban areas during an emergency. When a crisis is imminent, sedans earmarked for military use could be marshalled from motor pools to fill shortages in certain commandant units. Figure 12 shows the garage-type sheds characteristic of sedan motor pools. Several are based in every large city in the Soviet Union, and many have been observed in the vicinity of ground forces headquarters and mobile signal units.

### **Commandant Unit Structure**

21. (S/WN) Analysis of vehicle parking patterns has suggested a four-subunit structure for commandant units. Structures of typical commandant units have been depicted in charts 1 through 3. These subunits are headquarters, service, SP transport, and guard. Other than the vehicles from an SP transport subunit, no signature vehicles have been directly associated with the headquarters staff of commandant units. The headquarters staff includes the unit commander, senior officers, conscript soldiers, and a large number of civilians employed to perform administrative/clerical functions.<sup>3</sup> The echelon for each subunit is based primarily on the standard Soviet organizational structure for battalions and regiments. Commandant units may be assigned two or three SP transport subunits, each fully equipped to support a field CP, which may be a main CP, a reserve CP, etc.

### **Unit Garrisons**

22. (S/WN) The physical layout of each security and service garrison varies widely from one unit to the next. Of the 55 commandant units, only ten were identified in separately secured and detached garrisons, each consisting of a barracks/administrative area and a vehicle storage area. The ten units were identified at Ivano Frankovsk, Leningrad, Lvov, Odessa, Riga, Treuenbrietzen, Wunsdorf, Zhitomir, Legnica, and Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk (Figure 13).

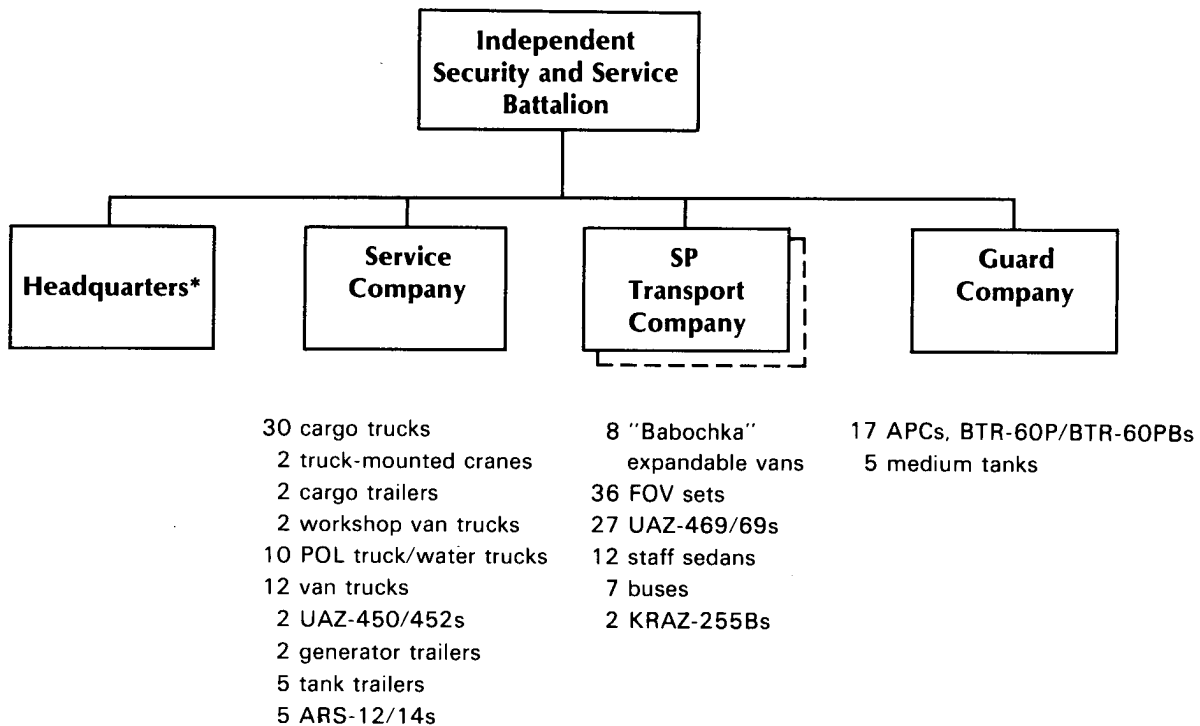
\*\*The Russian term is *Zesekrechivayushchaya Aparatura Svyazi*.

(Continued p. 21)

**Page Denied**

**Chart 1.**

**Soviet Army/Army Corps Independent Security and Service Battalion Organization and Equipment (Postulated)**

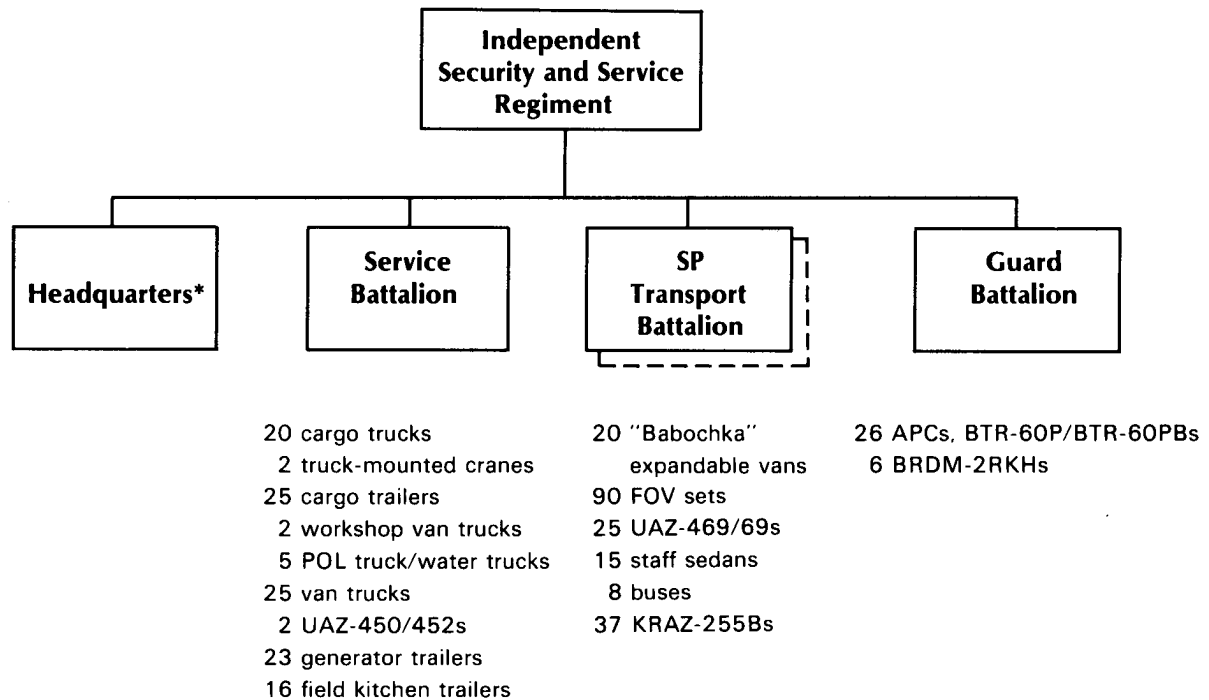


**Note:** These figures reflect the largest number of each type of equipment observed in any one battalion at any one time.

The vehicles organic to the SP transport company and service company are often seen within the same vehicle park. However, the vehicles organic to the guard company may be housed at another installation nearby. If guard troops are housed with this battalion, they may be armed with AKMs and light machine guns but equipped with only a few, if any, APCs.

The service company is representative of a number of service sub-elements, providing a wartime army/Front CP with electrical, chemical defense, and engineering support.

\*Other than vehicles from an SP transport subunit, no signature vehicles have been directly associated with the headquarters staff.

**SECRET****Chart 2.****Soviet Front Independent Security and Service Regiment Organization and Equipment (Postulated)**

**Note:** The composition and strength of the motorized rifle unit which forms the guard battalion are unknown. One source associated a tank company with this regiment;<sup>4</sup> however, this association has not been confirmed on imagery. Personnel and vehicles of the guard battalion are believed to be housed at a separate facility. If guard troops are housed with this regiment, they are equipped with AKM assault rifles and light machine guns but lack APCs.

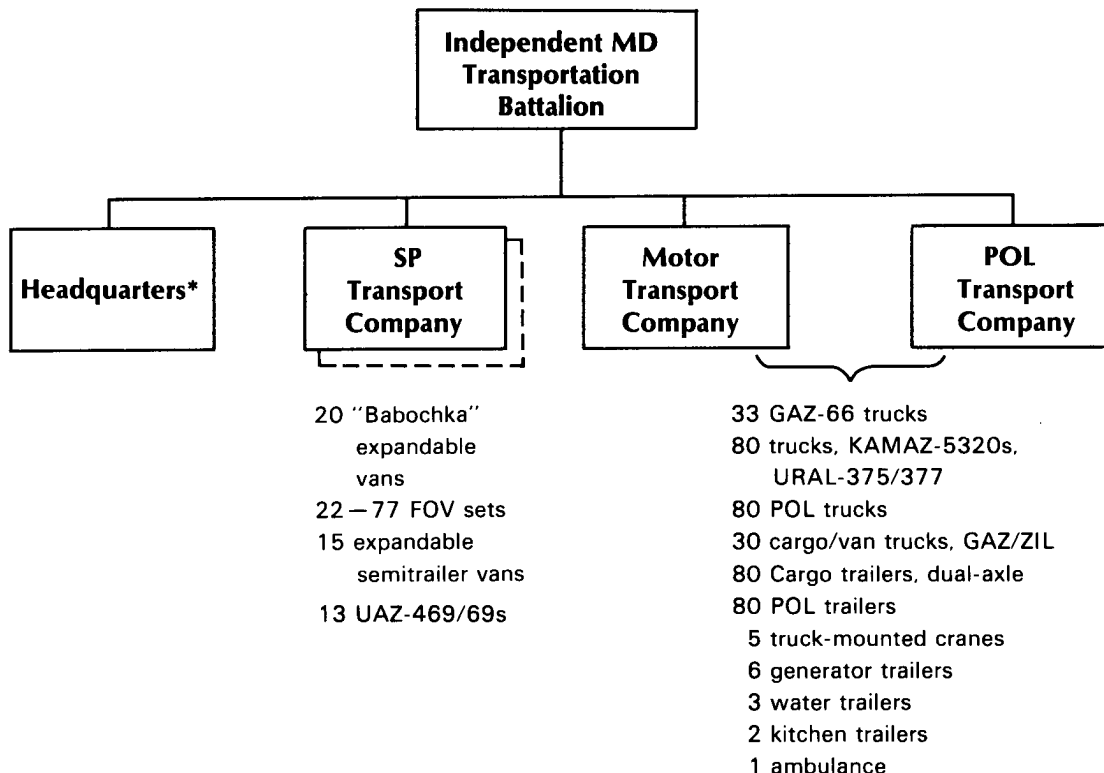
The service battalion is representative of a number of service sub-elements which provide a wartime army/Front CP with electrical, chemical defense, and engineering support. Vehicles organic to the SP transportation and service battalions are often seen within the same vehicle parking area. Unspecified numbers and types of signature vehicles organic to this battalion are probably maintained under covered storage.

\*Other than vehicles from an SP transport subunit, no signature vehicles have been directly associated with the headquarters staff of commandant units.

**SECRET**

**Chart 3.**

**Soviet Independent MD Transport Battalion (Postulated)**



**Note:** The probable mission of this battalion is to provide transportation for supplying a main field CP or rear services headquarters (rear control post) and depot. A similarly equipped unit has been identified with air force assets at Minsk and Tbilisi. This unit probably supports an MD air forces field command post.

The expandable semitrailer vans were seen at Kiyev Army Bks South AL-4 and at Glubokaya Army Bks AL-1. The vehicles of an SP transport subunit are usually parked in a separately secured vehicle park. Not all independent motor transport units are equipped with the vehicles seen in an SP transport company, but they do maintain the other subunits.

The figures reflect the largest number of each type of equipment identified in any one independent MD transport battalion.

\*Other than vehicles from an SP transport subunit, no signature vehicles have been directly associated with the headquarters staff of commandant units.

**Page Denied**

**SECRET**

23. (S/WN) At four other units, vehicles for independent security and service units are maintained at secured storage areas physically separated from the associated barracks/administrative housing facilities. The location of the barracks/administrative housing area has not been determined. Limited vehicle storage space, because of urban congestion or overcrowded conditions and because of several units billeted at one installation, is possibly one factor which led to storing unit vehicles apart from associated main garrisons. Detached vehicle storage areas were observed at Alabino, Chita, Kishinev, and Vyborg (Figure 14).

24. (S/WN) All remaining independent security and service units (30) were either close to an associated urban headquarters compound, similar to the compounds at Borisov and Khabarovsk (Figures 15 and 16), or at a separate garrison housing other nondivisional units also subordinate to the same headquarters. The independent security and service unit at Belogorsk Army Barracks Tom River AL-4 is a representative example of ten of the 30 units collocated with other detached subordinated units (Figure 17).

25. (S/WN) Eleven independent transportation units appear dissimilar to those of independent security and service units because an engineering troop obstacle course is at each garrison, the units are associated closely with rear service elements of their respective MDs, all lack APC/tank-equipped security subunits, and a lower level of training occurs in them. POL and cargo transport companies in the vicinity of the SP transport subunits serve as the chief recognition feature for them. The name of these 11 units was acquired from a source who served with the 374th Independent MD Transport Battalion at Riga Army Barracks NE AL-1.<sup>10</sup> The units were observed at Alma Ata, Glubokaya (5 nautical miles south-southeast of Chita), Kiev, Lvov, Minsk, Novocherkassk, Novosibirsk, Riga, Sverdlovsk, Tbilisi, and Budapest. The Minsk and Tbilisi units are associated with air forces of their respective MDs. The Kiyev MD transport battalion, illustrated in Figure 18, is the best example observed of MD transportation units.

### **Field CP Deployment**

26. (S/WN) A Soviet nondivisional field CP appears to be divided into a communications center, a combat control center, and one or more operations support groups. Timely establishment of a CP in the field would entail extensive coordination among units responsible for providing vehicles for each of these three components. Vehicles of an army/Front signal unit are used to set up the communications center for the CP and possibly for the combat control center (CCC) whereas vehicles of a commandant unit are used to set up operations support groups. The equipment comprising an operations support group includes FOV sets, *Babochka* vans, tents, mobile house trailers, and transportable cylindrical shelters.

27. (S/WN) The combat control center, usually at the center of a field CP, is composed of a group of four to eight *Babochka* van trucks arranged in a distinct block-shaped pattern (Figure 19). The main purpose of the center is believed to be troop control and supervision. The center could have a function similar to a United States tactical operations center and possibly consists of a ground force commander, an air force commander, a chief of staff, a chief of rocket troops and artillery, and other key officers. When commandant units were engaged in training, many examples of the pattern indicative of a combat control center were observed on imagery. Because *Babochka* vans are also found with certain types of mobile signal units, the vehicles forming a combat control center could be drawn from a commandant unit or a signal unit or from both.

(Continued p. 28)

**Page Denied**

Next 5 Page(s) In Document Denied

**SECRET**

28. (S/WN) All three components in a field CP were observed on [ ] imagery of Kabul Deployment Area SW, Afghanistan. The 40th Army's CP was established here during the early stages of the Soviet invasion in late December 1979 (Figure 20). Between [ ] this CP was dismantled, and the commanding general and key officers probably moved to a large palace (*Tapaitijek*) atop a hill near the original CP site. Figure 21 shows the security and service battalion vehicle park as it appeared on [ ] As of late August 1982, the independent security and service battalion and independent signal regiment used to form that CP maintain their vehicles in separately secured vehicle parks immediately next to the former CP location.

25X1

25X1

25X1

29. (S/WN) Occasionally, small-scale training involving various commandant units has been observed in neighboring training areas (Figures 22 and 23). The units rehearse in these areas as though they were at their CP deployment sites. Such training areas might be designated as alert areas from which commandant units may relocate to their actual CP. Figure 24 is a simplified illustration of the three essential elements involved in establishing the major control posts at army/Front level.

30. (S/WN) A deployed Front/CS-level CP was first identified on imagery of [ ] The CP was in the Central Asian MD at Sary-Ozek Alternate Command Post [ ] which is 4 nautical miles west of a fixed command and control facility. This fixed facility—Sary-Ozek Joint Command/CP/Bunker/Hard [ ]—is considered most likely to house a probable theater-associated facility in the region. Only two of the three components of this CP engaged in a Front- or CS-directed exercise were visible on imagery. (Partial coverage precluded confirmation of the third component, the combat control center.) The locations of the commandant unit and the signal unit which participated in this exercise have yet to be determined (Figures 25 through 27).

25X1

25X1

25X1

**Command Staff Association**

31. (S/WN) National-level authorities may have delegated certain independent security and service units to support contingency operations involving high-ranking officers and staff personnel directly under Moscow control. Beginning in 1979, elements of an independent security and service regiment were being formed at Barybino Army Barracks AL-1, 33 nautical miles south-southeast of Moscow, and at Ulan Ude 9th Reserves of the Supreme High Command (RVGK) Signal Brigade AL 3. Both installations—each with major C3-related facilities—house a CS signal brigade.<sup>11</sup> A large CP bunker at Barybino and a large high command headquarters building and radio communications facility at Ulan Ude AL-3 were probably designed to improve Moscow's coordination and control of Frontal forces in any outlying theater of military operations. Figure 28 illustrates the security and service regiment at Ulan Ude AL-3 where such a CS-level headquarters has been established.

**CONCLUSION**

32. (S/WN) Because commandant units must depart along with mobile signal units, they provide an additional indication of when a CP deployment will occur. Close observation of mobile signal elements and commandant units supporting field headquarters can aid in predicting CP deployments and in enhancing analysis of them. In recent years, the Soviets have increased their reliance on mobile signal and commandant units to ensure control of deployed troops and armament. New formations of both types of units at all command levels are evidence that this trend will continue.

**Page Denied**

Next 3 Page(s) In Document Denied

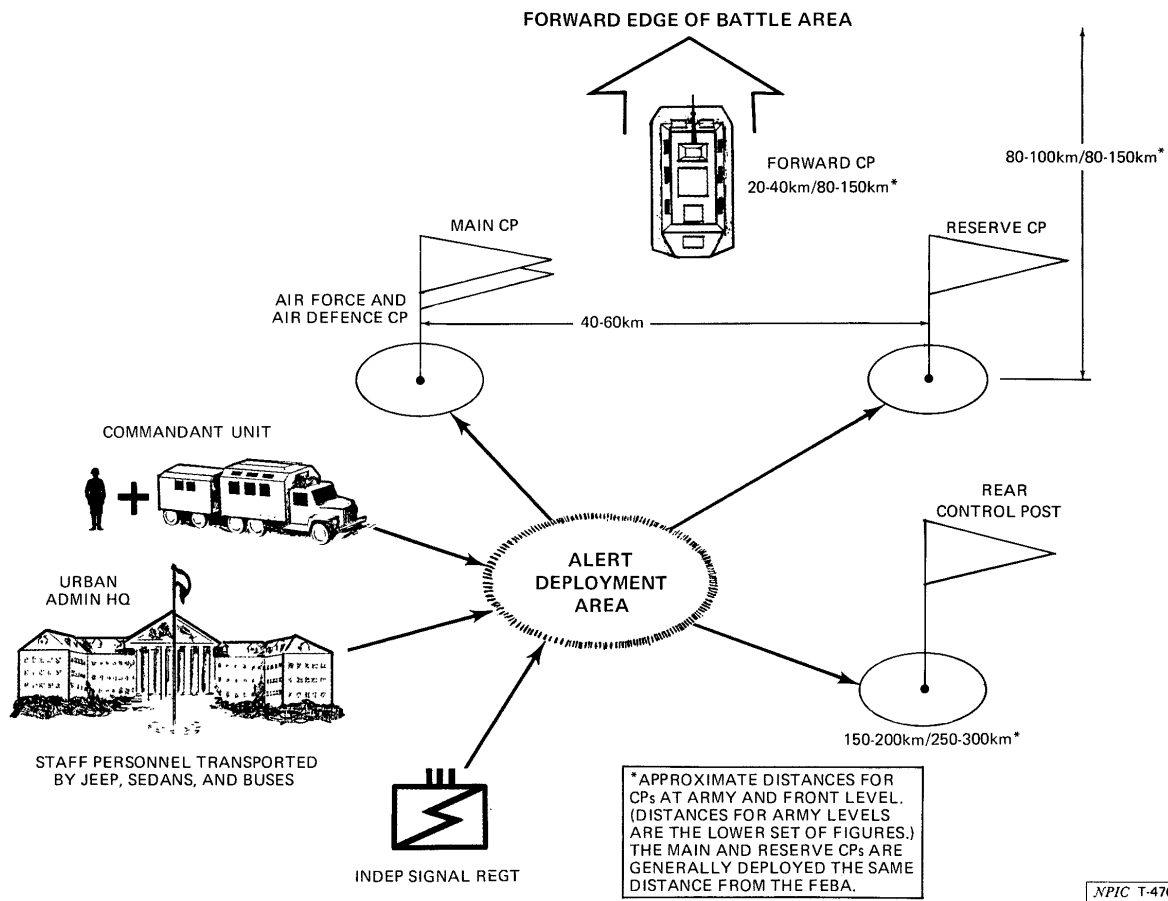


FIGURE 24. ILLUSTRATION OF SOVIET ARMY/FRONT FIELD COMMAND POST DEPLOYMENTS

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/03/04 : CIA-RDP83T00574R000102640001-3

**Page Denied**

Next 3 Page(s) In Document Denied

SECRET

REFERENCES

IMAGERY

(S/WN) All available satellite imagery acquired through [ ] was used in the preparation of this report.

25X1

DOCUMENTS

1. [ ] 25X1
2. CIA. FIRK-311/00347-77, *The 6th Army Headquarters (V/Ch 71577) in Petrozavodsk, Leningrad Military District*, 14 Mar 77 (CONFIDENTIAL/WNINTEL)
3. DoD. 2 218 9306 80, *Cegled (4710N-1948E), U/I Corps Headquarters and Service Battalion (U)*, 13 Nov 80 (CONFIDENTIAL)
4. DoD. IR 2 240 6113 82, *Organization of Soviet FRONT Headquarters (U)*, 15 Mar 82 (CONFIDENTIAL [ ]) 25X1
5. DoD. 2 218 5168 78, *KALININGRAD (5443N-2030E), 11th Guards Tank Army Headquarters (C)*, 21 Apr 78 (CONFIDENTIAL [ ]) 25X1
6. US Army. AST-1100S-100-81, *Soviet Cold Weather Operations (U)*, 6 Feb 81 (SECRET [ ]) 25X1  
[ ] 25X1
7. DoD. 2 240 0060 80, *"Babochka" Communications System (U)*, 23 Apr 80 (CONFIDENTIAL [ ]) 25X1  
[ ] 25X1
8. DIA. DST-1150S-103-80, *Military Shelters—Foreign (U)*, 15 Dec 80 (CONFIDENTIAL [ ]) 25X1  
[ ] 25X1
9. US Army. TB 381-5-17, *Foreign Materiel Catalog (FOMCAT)*, vol 17, General Equipment, Nov 77 (UNCLASSIFIED)
10. DoD. IR 2 218 1840 81, *Baltic Military District Transportation Battalion (U)*, 211313Z Jan 81 (CONFIDENTIAL)
11. DIA. [ ] IAR-6-79, *Moscow Command Staff Signal Units (S)*, Jan 80 (TOP SECRET [ ]) 25X1  
[ ] 25X1
12. DIA. DDB-1100-UR-81, *Ground Order of Battle: USSR (U)*, Jan 81 (SECRET [ ]) 25X1

\*Extracted information [ ] 25X1

\*\*Extracted information is UNCLASSIFIED.

\*\*\*Extracted information is SECRET [ ] 25X1

RELATED DOCUMENT

DoD. IR 2 218 1841 81, *High Level Army Rear Services Command Post (U)*, 270910Z Jan 81 (CONFIDENTIAL)

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [ ] 25X1

[ ] Warsaw Pact Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [ ] 25X1

[ ] The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance of [ ] 25X1  
NPIC, [ ] (for graphic illustrations) at NPIC, and [ ] DB-5E3, DIA. 25X1

**Secret**

**Secret**